




# Family Matters

THE NEWSLETTER OF BERRY FAMILY LAW: SUMMER 2013-2014



## Seasons Greetings

*The partners and staff at Berry Family Law wish you and your family all the best for the festive season and we hope you have a wonderful 2014!*



## Congratulations to Sanaz Naimi on becoming an Accredited Specialist

Sanaz joined Berry Family Law in January 2012 and has impressed with her practical legal skills founded in ten years of working as a family lawyer. She has a particular interest in complex property matters and has a strong commercial focus.

This year Sanaz studied for and passed the Law Institute of Victoria's accreditation process to become an Accredited Specialist in family law. This involved many hours of study and a rigorous assessment.

Everyone at Berry Family Law is very proud of her achievement and her valuable contribution to the firm.



Berry Family Law

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# What does it mean to be a Family Law Specialist?



A number of our lawyers are accredited specialists. Only the best lawyers in their field of expertise become Law Institute Accredited Specialists.

Accredited Specialists must have:

- at least five years full time legal practice experience
- at least three years experience in their area of specialisation
- a high degree of professional development in their area of specialisation

All Specialists must pass a comprehensive examination process which tests technical knowledge, writing and practical advocacy skills. This examination process is developed and assessed by industry experts.

Specialists need to apply for re-accreditation every three years.

# What you need to know about Intervention Orders

There are two types of intervention orders:

- a family violence intervention order helps to protect you from a family member who is violent to you
- a personal safety intervention order helps to protect you from someone, other than a family member, who makes you feel unsafe

An intervention order is a civil order made by a Magistrate under the *Family Violence Protection Act 2008* or the *Personal Safety Intervention Orders Act 2010*.

The intervention order is intended to restrain a person from committing a prohibited act on a protected person and can encompass:

- Physical injury
- Approaching the person at home, work or elsewhere
- Emotional or psychological harm
- Contacting, harassing or threatening the protected person
- Damage to property

An application may be made by police or an affected person and there may or may not be an expiry date to these orders.

An intervention order may direct the respondent to participate in counselling or suspend any firearms licences or permits.

If an intervention order is breached the respondent may be charged by police with a criminal offence and incur a fine of up to \$27,220.80, imprisonment of up to 2 years, or both.



Berry Family Law

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